

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02299 051512Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /071 W

-----051520Z 068300 /53

R 050707Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6290

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, TS

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: TUNIS 1732, TUNIS 1879, TUNIS 1947, TUNIS 2045

1. DURING A PUBLIC MEETING ON MARCH 29 IN WHICH HE KICKED OFF THE DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY'S TWO MONTH CAMPAIGN TO RENEW THE LEADERSHIP OF ITS 6,000 CELLS, PRIME MINISTER NUIRA WAS ASKED TO EXPLAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD A RECENT STRIKE OF ENGINEERS PROTESTING THE ARREST OF MOHAMED BELHAJ AMOR (SEE TUNIS 1879). NOUIRA SAID THAT STRIKE WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED. HE THEN NOTED THAT TUNISIA HAS LAWS AND THEY WILL BE APPLIED. "WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE DONE, TUNISIA WILL BE THE SOLE JUDGE OF WHAT IS BEST."

2. NOUIRA THEN SAID, "WE DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE ORDERS FROM ANYONE AND NO ONE CAN ARROGATE TO HIMSELF GUARDIANSHIP OF OUR AFFAIRS. DICTATING TO US THE CONDUCT WE SHOULD FOLLOW IS A LEFTOVER OF COLONIALISM. IF THE CRITICISM COMES FROM A TUNISIAN, WHETHER IT BE IN GOOD FAITH OR IN IGNORANCE, IT IS WELCOME; BUT IF A FOREIGNER WISHES TO DICTATE HIS WILL OR ORIENT OUR THOUGHT, OUR REPLY IS 'MIND YOUR BUSINESS.'"

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3. SINCE MARCH 14 WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER RTILERED COPY OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON TUNISIA TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, GOT HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY SILENT ON U.S. INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE AND ITS APPLICATION IN TUNISIA. NOUIRA'S REMARKS AT THE MARCH 29 PARTY MEETING COULD HAVE BEEN INTENDED AS A REPLY TO OUR INTEREST BUT MORE LIKELY WAS

AN ANSWER IN ADVANCE TO ANTICIPATED PROTESTS
FROM FRENCH LEFTISTS CIRCLES AGAINST ARREST OF BEN SALAHISTS.
IN ANY EVENT, NOUIRA CLEARLY DOES NOT WELCOME OUTSIDE
INTEREST IN WHAT TUNISIA REGARDS AS ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT
TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL SECURITY.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS02299
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770118-0444
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Retention: 0
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Subject: PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, TS, (NOUIRA, HEDI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a504efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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